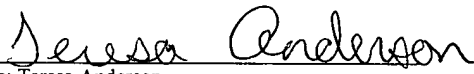


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DOCKET NUMBER	ANTICIPATED CLASSIFICATION OF THIS APPLICATION:		PRIOR APPLICATION	
	CLASS	SUBCLASS	EXAMINER	ART UNIT
10873.0498USD1			Kimlien T. Le	2653

<p>CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10: "Express Mail" mailing label number: EV321730082US Date of Deposit: November 19, 2003</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By:  Name: Teresa Anderson</p>
--

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

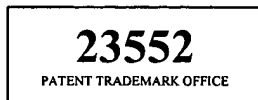
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) and § 1.98(d), copies have been provided only for those items listed on the enclosed Form 1449 that have not previously been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/506347 filed on 17 February 2000.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

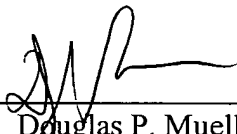
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: November 19, 2003

By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM:mmm

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10873.0498USD1	Application Number: filed here within
	Applicant: NAKATA et al.	
	Filing Date: filed here within	Group Art Unit: n/a

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	US 6,310,852	Oct. 2001	Tomita et al.				
	US 6,016,293	Jan. 2000	Lee et al.				
	US 5,946,146	Aug. 1999	Haruguchi et al.				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	JP 5-314535	Nov. 1993	JAPAN			Abstract	
	JP 7-6533	Jan. 1995	JAPAN			Abstract	
	JP 10-320802	Dec. 1998	JAPAN			Abstract	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10873.0498USD1	Application Number: filed here within
	Applicant: NAKATA et al.	
	Filing Date: filed here within	Group Art Unit: n/a

	9-320086	12/12/97	Japan				
	11-213411	08/06/99	Japan				
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	JP 64-15317	Jan. 1989	JAPAN				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	